

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 01056 150538Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
NSC-05 INR-05 INRE-00 L-01 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01
PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /047 W
-----063232 150548Z /16-21

O R 150415Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8328
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1056

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y CLASSIFICATION (SECRET VICE
CONFIDENTIAL) ADD CAPTION LIMDIS AND CHANGE EO FROM GDS TO
XGDS-4

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS CORCORAN

E. O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PDEV MASS EAID LA VM US PDIP
SUBJECT: TOP LEVEL VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN VIENTIANE

1. AN EIGHT MAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION FROM
VIETNAM ARRIVED AT VIENTIANE'S WATTAY AIRPORT AT 0815
HOURS LOCAL TIME. THE DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY LE
DUAN, VCP GENERAL SECRETARY, AND PHAM VAN DONG, VCP
POLITBURO MEMBER AND SRV PRIME MINISTER. THE DELEGA-
TION INCLUDED PHAM HUNG, VCP POLITBURO MEMBER AND
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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER; GENERAL CHU HUY MAN, VCP
POLITBURO MEMBER; DANG THI, VCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MEMBER AND MINISTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE;
NGUYEN THANH LE, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER; VANG BIC
SOUN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AID WITHIN THE SRV
MFA; AND DINH NHO LIEM, SRV AMBASSADOR TO THE LPDR.

2. THE DELEGATION WAS GREETED FIRST BY KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, LPRP GENERAL SECRETARY AND LPDR PRIME MINISTER; SOUPHANOUVONG, POLITBURO MEMBER AND LPDR PRESIDENT; SOUVANNA PHOUMA, ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT; FAIDENG LOBALIAYAO, POLITBURO MEMBER AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY; AND THEN BY OTHER PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

3. THE DELEGATION RECEIVED A 21 GUN SALUTE UPON ARRIVAL AND AFTER A FIFTEEN MINUTE AIRPORT CEREMONY WAS DRIVEN INTO THE CITY THROUGH A CROWD OF VIENTIANE CITIZENS ORGANIZED IN A SINGLE LINE ALONG MOST OF THE MOTORCADE ROUTE.

4. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD LEAVE ON MONDAY FOLLOWING THREE DAYS OF TALKS AND TWO RECEPTIONS.

5. WHILE LE DUAN APPEARED QUITE ANIMATED DURING THE AIRPORT CEREMONIES PHAM VAN DONG MOVED MORE SLOWLY.

6. THE PARTY NEWSPAPER "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" AND THE CITY NEWSPAPER "NKEW VIENTIANE" DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR FRONT PAGES TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE
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DELEGATION. CITY STREETS WERE HEAVILY GUARDED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE REGULAR LPLA TROOPS. VIETNAMESE AND LAO FLAGS ARE FLYING THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND BANNERS IN LAO AND VIETNAMESE READING "SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SRV AND LPDR" ARE HUNG AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS.

7. A MALAYSIAN DIPLOMAT TOLD ME MORNING JULY 15 FOLLOWING THE AIRPORT RECEPTION THAT HIS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WAS APPROACHED BY THE LPDR MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AT FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION EVENING JULY 14 AND ASKED TO TELL HIS "AMERICAN FRIEND" THAT "HE SHOULD NOT BE AT THE ARRIVAL CEREMONIES" DURING THE MORNING OF JULY 15 (TO WHICH I RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM THE MFA). THOUGH I TALKED WITH THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DURING THE FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, I WAS NOT REQUESTED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE ARRIVAL CEREMONIES. THE MALAYSIAN CHARGE DID NOT PASS ANY SUCH MESSAGE TO ME, THOUGH I ALSO SPOKE TO HIM AT THE FRENCH RECEPTION.

8. COMMENT: THE DELEGATION IS THE FIRST TOP LEVEL

VIETNAMESE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO VISIT
LAOS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE LPDR. THE RECEPTION,
PARTICULARLY THE 21 GUN SALUTE DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF
A HEAD OF STATE, WAS ABOUT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE LPDR
COULD MANAGE. THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION
SUGGESTS THAT BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ITEMS WILL BE
ON THE AGENDA DURING THE REPORTED THREE DAYS OF TALKS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR SAID
THAT THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WOULD BE INVITED TO
BOTH RECEPTIONS (PARA 4); ONE HOSTED BY THE LAO EVENING
OF THE 15TH AND ONE HOSTED BY THE VIETNAMESE EVENING
OF THE 17TH. IN LIGHT OF ABSENCE US/SRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
AND REPORT PARA 7, REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST AS TO WHETHER
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I SHOULD ATTEND RECEPTIONS IF A FORMAL INVITATION IS RECEIVED FOR
THIS EVENING (15TH) AND EVENING OF 17TH. IF INSTRUCTIONS
TO CONTRARY NOT RECEIVED BY 1800 LOCAL TODAY,
AND IF AN OFFICIAL INVITATION IS RECEIVED, I PLAN TO
ATTEND RECEPTION EVENING OF 15TH RATHER THAN SUGGEST
BY MY ABSENCE U.S. INITIATED DIPLOMATIC COOLNESS.
MCWILLIAMS

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NNN

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